

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CANBER 05075 290213Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----079090 291907Z /43

R 290023Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3661

S E C R E T CANBERRA 5075

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, AS  
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM

1. ON JUNE 28 THE WIFE OF JOSELITO C. AZURING OF THE PHILLIPINES EMBASSY CALLED TO ASK IF I WOULD MEET WITH HER HUSBAND AT THE WODEN VALLEY HOSPITAL ON A MATTER OF SOME DELICACY AND IMPORTANCE. I FOUND ON ARRIVAL AT THE HOSPITAL THAT AZURIN, WHO WAS RECENTLY SUPERSEDED AS PHILIPPINES CHARGE BY MRS. ROSALINDA TIRONA, HAD BEEN TOLD THAT HE HAD 30 DAYS FROM MAY 12 TO PACK AND RETURN TO THE PHILIPPINES.

2. MR. AZURIN SAID THIS WAS MOST UNUSUAL SINCE NORMALLY 60 DAYS ARE THE MINIMUM PROVIDED FOR AN OFFICER TO LEAVE POST FOR ONWARD ASSIGNMENT. HE THEN CITED REASONS WHY HE DID NOT WISH TO LEAVE AUSTRALIA AT THIS TIME, INCLUDING THE FACT THAT HE HAS FIVE CHILDREN IN SCHOOL WHO WOULD NOT FINISH THEIR YEAR UNTIL DECEMBER; THAT HE OWNS A HOUSE WORTH A\$60,000 AND IN THIS BUYERS' MARKET IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO DISPOSE OF THE HOUSE; THIRDLY, HE HAD OTHER OBLIGATIONS INCLUDING PERSONAL NOTES OUTSTANDING ON A CAR, AND OTHER DEBTS. FINALLY, HE MENTIONED THAT HE WAS BEING "FALSELY" ACCUSED OF HAVING SIGNED HIS NAME TO CUSTOMS INVOICES CLEARING SUBSTANTIAL LIQUOR SHIPMENTS INTO AUSTRALIA; THESE SHIPMENTS HAS SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN SOLD

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CANBER 05075 290213Z

ILLEGALLY. ALTHOUGH MR. AZURIN SAID HE HAD BEEN FRAMED, HE SAID APPARENTLY HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS HOLDING HIM RESPONSIBLE.

3. AT THIS POINT, AZURIN SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO ASK FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES. HE BRIEFLY MENTIONED HIS (NEW-FOUND, APPARENTLY LOVE OF LIBERTY AND CITED THE

PHILIPPINE REGIME AS BEING OPPRESSIVE; IT WAS QUITE EVIDENT THAT HIS LOVE FOR FREEDOM, HOWEVER, WAS OF RELATIVELY RECENT ORIGIN. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD HAVE ASKED FOR ASYLUM IN AUSTRALIA EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RECENTLY, BY CIRCULAR NOTE, SAID IT WOULD NOT ACCEPT REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM OF DIPLOMATS IN THIS COUNTRY.

4. I GAVE AZURIN NO ENCOURAGEMENT, BUT SAID I WOULD CONSULT WITH WASHINGTON. AZURIN IS USING THE HOSPITAL SOJOURN AS A DELAYING TACTIC. HE HOPES THAT HIS STAY IN AUSTRALIA WILL BE EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 1978.

5. COMMENT: IT IS FAIRLY EVIDENT THAT AZURIN'S REQUEST FOR ASYLUM CANNOT BE CONSTRUED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK APPLYING TO POLITICAL ASYLUM. I WOULD NOT RECOMMEND THAT THIS REQUEST BE HONORED. PLEASE INSTRUCT.

SQUIRE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL ASYLUM  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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